

Universal Telephone Assistance Corporation - (UTAC)

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LinkUp and LifeLine Programs - Making local phone service affordable

LINK UP is a program which helps households pay the installation charge for telephone service. This federally funded effort will assist qualified low-income consumers by paying an amount equal to the lesser of \$10 or 50% of each telephone installation charge (after application of federal Link-Up funds). LINK UP recipients will also receive a one year deferred payment schedule (with no interest or carrying charge) for the remaining installation charges up to \$200. Security deposit requirements which may be allowed by law are not included in the deferred payment schedule.

LIFELINE is a program which provides approximately \$10. in assistance to help pay monthly charge for local telephone service. This federally funded program is available to qualified low-income consumers. If the qualifying low-income consumer voluntarily elect toll blocking while initiating LIFELINE service, a service deposit is not required. If toll blocking is unavailable, the carrier may charge a service deposit. Toll blocking will prevent the connection of outgoing toll calls from a residence.

UTAC - Who is Eligible for These Programs?

You are eligible if you are a recipient of one of the following programs:

- Medicaid
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Where can I apply for the Lifeline and/or Link Up programs?

For additional information or enrollment in these programs, contact your local telephone company. Link-up and Lifeline are federally funded programs. The Illinois Commerce Commission cannot guarantee that all Eligible Telecommunications Carriers will receive funding to support these programs. Reimbursement for these programs depends on the FCC's Fund Administrator's management and distribution of the funds collected through universal service mechanisms.

UTAC - Program Funding

The Universal Telephone Service Assistance Program (UTSAP) is funded by voluntary contributions from Illinois ratepayers. Consumers wishing to participate in the funding of UTSAP may do so by electing to contribute, on a monthly basis, a fixed amount to be included by the local exchange company on their monthly telephone bill.

Residential customers	\$.50
may elect to contribute:	\$1.00
	\$2.00 or
	\$5.00 per month
Business customers	\$1.00
may elect to contribute:	\$10.00 or
	\$25.00 per month

Consumers may also elect to make a one time contribution to the UTSAP Administrator. It is the responsibility of the local exchange company to solicit, collect and remit the contributions on behalf of the consumers to the UTSAP Administrator. The address of the UTSAP Administrator is: Post Office Box 1176, Springfield, Illinois 62705-1176.

The voluntary contributions assist qualified low-income consumers by providing additional assistance to the Link Up Program. Link UP is a federally funded program which helps households pay the installation charge for telephone service. Link Up pays an amount equal to the lesser of \$10 or 50% of each telephone installation charge (after application of federal Link-Up funds).

The Lifeline program is a federally funded program that provides approximately \$10. to help pay the monthly charge for local telephone service. If you want to apply for the Link Up programs or make a contribution to UTSAP contact your local telephone company. Annual UTSAP Assistance Determination **Docket No. 03-0418**.

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